

## Message Text

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53-L

ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 SS-15 EB-07 PRS-01 L-02 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 NSC-05 OES-03 /052 W

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R 201337Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5652

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 1118

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: USISJC, EGEN, IS, US

SUBJECT: US-ISRAEL JOINT COMMITTEE-- DESALTING PROJECT

REF: STATE 29572, TEL AVIV 0657, TEL AVIV 4691 TEL AVIV 4081 (74)

1. WE ARE PUZZLED BY ECONOMIC MINISTER SHER'S STATEMENT (STATE 29572) THAT ISRAELI DESALTING TECHNOLOGY IN PILOT PROJECT HAS "CHANGED SUBSTANTIALLY AND THAT NEW APPROACH MAY BE NECESSARY". ISRAELI OFFICIALS AND WATEREXPERTS ARE ALSO PUZZLED. IN RECENT CONVERSATION, AGMON, DG, MINISTRY OF FINANCE, SAID THAT ONLY ACTION REQUIRED WAS USG DECISION TO MOVE AHEAD. GABRIEL STEIN, CHAIRMAN OF ISRAELI DESALINATION ENGINEERS (WHICH DEVELOPED TECHNOLOGY IN QUESTION) TOLD US THAT PERFORMANCE AT NEW ONE MGD PLANT AT EILAT WAS "EMINENTLY SATISFACTORY AND HAD EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS". STEIN NOTED THAT WHILE SOME MINOR PROBLEMS HAD DEVELOPED THESE HAD BEEN DEALT WITH AND NO MAJOR MODIFICATIONS WERE PLANNED FOR THE PROPOSED ELEVEN MGD PLANT AT ASHDOD. HE SAID THAT WHILE US PARTICIPATION IN NEXT PHASE WAS HIGHLY DESIRABLE, IF WE DECIDED AGAINST IT HE BELIEVED GOI WOULD PRESS FORWARD UNILATERALLY WITH DESALINATION PROGRAM.

2. COMMENT: DEPT IS REMINDED THAT AS RECENT AS LAST AUGUST, TEAM OF USG EXPERTS PERFORMED ON-SITE FEASIBILITY STUDY OF THIS LONG-DELAYED PROJECT. TEAM CONCLUDED THAT JOINT PROGRAM SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED AS PROPOSED. GIVEN  
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LONG HISTORY OF THIS PROJECT, PERSONAL INTEREST OF PRIMIN

RABIN (SEE TEL AVIV 4081) AND FACT THAT LAST  
FEASIBILITY STUDY WAS COMPLETED ONLY FEW MONTHS AGO, WE  
SINCERELY HOPE THAT USG WILL NOT NOW REQUIRE ADDITIONAL  
TECHNICAL APPRAISALS. WE BELIEVE THAT A  
PROJECT AGREEMENT CAN BE NEGOTIATED WITH GOI WHICH WILL  
FULLY PROTECT US INTERESTS. RE DATE FOR COMMITTEE  
MEETING, IT IS CLEAR FROM INFORMAL EXCHANGES HERE  
THAT ISRAELI OFFICIALS ARE PLANNING ON MARCH 19-20 IN  
WASHINGTON.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, DESALINATION, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975TELAV01118  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750061-0129  
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**Office:** ACTION TRSE  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 29572, 75 TEL AVIV 0657, 75 TEL AVIV 4691, 75 TEL AVIV 4081, 75 (7  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <07 AUG 2003 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <01 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** US-ISRAEL JOINT COMMITTEE-- DESALTING PROJECT  
**TAGS:** EGEN, IS, US, USIRJC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006